

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00  
PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 MCT-01 SY-05 USSS-00  
/036 W  
-----043487 030649Z /11  
R 021350Z DEC 77  
FM AMCONSUL GENOA  
TO AMEMBASSY ROME  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2088

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 GENOA 0631

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINR, PINT, IT  
SUBJECT: PUBLIC SECURITY- GENOA

REF: ROME 19081 AND 19412

SUMMARY: GENOA HAS THE DUBIOUS DISTINCTION OF BEING THE  
BIRTHPLACE AND/OR HEADQUARTERS OF THE RED BRIGADES, BRIGATE  
ROSSE (BR), AND OF A FEW OTHER LEFT TERRORIST GROUPS.  
THE REPUTATION MAY WELL BE MERITED. IN FACT, MANY, IF  
NOT ALL OF THE TERRORIST MANIFESTATIONS OF THE PAST COUPLE  
OF YEARS, INCLUDING THE LATEST BR PASSTIME OF MAIMING BY  
SHOOTING, FIRST SAW THE LIGHT OF DAY IN GENOA, LATER TO  
BE COPIED ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY. GENOA'S UNENVIABLE PRIMACY  
STOPS HERE, HOWEVER, FOR IT SHARES WITH THE REST OF THE  
ITALIAN CITIES THE UTTER FAILURE AND/OR INABILITY, THUS FAR,  
TO APPREHEND ANY OF THE PERPETRATORS OF THESE MURDEROUS ACTS  
WHICH ARE INVARIABLY RECEIVED WITH VOLUMINOUS AND GORY COVERAGE  
IN THE MEDIA, LOUD CRIES OF CONDEMNATION BY POLITICAL SPEECH-  
MAKERS, COPIOUS HANDWRINGING BY THE POLICE AUTHORITIES  
AND NOISY "DEMOCRATIC, ANTITERRORIST" STRIKES AND  
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DEMONSTRATIONS BY THE WORKERS. AS FOR THE CAUSES, THE CIVIL  
AUTHORITIES BLAME "FOREIGN" DEVILS, THE POLICE AND THE  
MILITARY BLAME THE "NON-GOVERNMENT" IN ROME, AND THE PUBLIC  
BLAMES EVERYBODY. UNFORTUNATELY, SUCH REACTIONS AND  
PERCEPTIONS HAVE PROVED TO BE NO REMEDIES AND HAVE  
NEITHER DIMINISHED TERRORIST ACTIVITIES NOR RESULTED IN THE  
APPREHENSION OF THE CULPRITS. THE UPSHOT OF IT ALL MAY

WELL BE THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE SORT OF PUBLIC AND  
POLITICAL CLIMATE WHICH WILL ACCELERATE AND JUSTIFY THE  
EVENTUAL PARTICIPATION OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY IN  
A NATION EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT "TO SAVE THE COUNTRY'S DEMO-  
CRATIC INSTITUTIONS", A SCENARIO WHICH OLD ITALIAN HANDS  
IN THE DEPARTMENT USED TO KNOW AS "DISCIULLO'S NIGHTMARE".  
END SUMMARY

1. GENOA'S BRIGATE ROSSE AND SIMILAR LEFTIST ACTIVISTS, CAN  
RIGHTLY CLAIM A NUMBER OF "FIRSTS" FOR THEIR NEFARIOUS TERRORIST  
HITS:

A. KIDNAPPING OF A MEMBER OF THE JUDICIARY, JUDGE  
MARIO SOSSI, IN 1974;

B. MURDER OF A MEMBER OF THE JUDICIARY, DISTRICT  
ATTORNEY FRANCESCO COCO, IN 1976;

C. MAIMING BY SHOOTING OF A MEMBER OF THE PRESS,  
DR. VITTORIO BRUNO, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF GENOA'S DAILY  
IL SECOLO XIX, IN 1977;

D. MAIMING BY SHOOTING OF A POLITICAL LEADER, ARCHITECT  
ANGELO SIBILLA, REGIONAL SECRETARY OF THE CHRISTIAN  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY, IN 1977;

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E. MAIMING BY SHOOTING OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF MANAGEMENT  
CARLO CASTELLANO, COMMUNIST MANAGER OF THE ANSALDO  
COMPANY, IN 1977;

AND FINALLY, VARIOUS AND ASSORTED BOMBINGS AND BURNINGS  
OF AUTOMOBILES AND OFFICES BELONGING TO LOCAL CHRISTIAN  
DEMOCRATS AND INDUSTRIAL LEADERS.

INTERESTINGLY, ALL OF THE GENOA TERRORIST HITS APPEAR  
TO BE HIGHLY SELECTIVE AND DIRECTED AGAINST PRECISELY IDENTI-  
FIED TARGETS. UNLIKE OTHER CITIES IN ITALY, GENOA HAS NOT  
BEEN THE SCENE OF INDISCRIMINATE MOB ATTACKS AGAINST STATE  
OR PRIVATE TARGETS.

2. THE GENOESE, THEREFORE, LEARNS OF THE TERRORIST ACTS IN  
THEIR MIDST NOT SO MUCH BY FIRST HAND OBSERVATION, BUT USUALLY  
THROUGH THE ACCOUNTS AND PICTURES PROVIDED BY THE MEDIA.  
MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, SOME OF THOSE ACCOUNTS DESCRIB  
TERRORIST ACTS IN A LANGUAGE REMINISCENT OF THE HEROIC EXPLOITS  
OF ELITE MILITARY UNITS IN COMBAT. THUS, FOR EXAMPLE,  
RED BRIGADE THUGS ARE OFTEN REFERRED TO AS "COMMANDOS"  
AND THEIR MURDEROUS ACTS AGAINST INNOCENT AND DEFENSELESS  
INDIVIDUALS, AS CONDUCTED "WITH SURGICAL PRECISION". THE

NOISY AND OFTEN HYSTERICAL MEDIA REACTION WHICH ACCOMPANIES THESE TERRORIST ACTS, COUPLED WITH THE "ANTI-TERRORIST" STRIKES AND DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH PARALYZE CITY TRAFFIC AND ROUTINE, MAY PRODUCE THE OPPOSITE EFFECT THAN THE ONE INTENDED. FOR, ONE SUSPECTS, THE DISTORTED MINDS OF THE TERRORISTS CANNOT BUT BE IMPRESSED AND TITILLATED BY THE SPECTACLE OF A CITY OF 800,000 BROUGHT TO A STANDSTILL, EVEN IF TEMPORARILY, BY ONE OF THEIR ACTS. AFTER ALL, THE STATED OBJECTIVE OF THE BRIGATE ROSSE IS TO UNDERMINE AND BRING DOWN THE "BOURGEOIS" STATE VIA THE INTIMIDATION AND PUNISHMENT OF ITS "SERVANTS".

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PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 MCT-01 SY-05 USSS-00  
/036 W

-----043331 030649Z /11

R 021350X DEC 77  
FM AMCONSUL GENOA  
TO AMEMBASSY ROME  
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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINR, PINT, IT  
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3. IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO FIND ANYONE IN GENOA WHO CAN EVEN IDENTIFY OR EXPLAIN THE CAUSES OF TERRORISM, LET ALONE PROPOSE REMEDIES TO COPE WITH THEM. MOST OF THE CIVIL AUTHORITIES TEND TO BLAME "FOREIGN" INTELLIGENCE SERVICES, OFTEN UNNAMED. WHEN PRESSED, SOME WILL IDENTIFY THE "FOREIGNERS" AS CZECH OR WEST GERMAN. WHEN ASKED FOR WHAT PURPOSE, THEY ANSWER UNCONVINCINGLY IF AMUSINGLY, THAT BOTH CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND WEST GERMANY WISH TO PREVENT COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT. THE POLICE AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES, A FEW OF WHOM ALSO ESPOUSE THE "FOREIGN" DEVIL THEORY, GENERALLY AND HEATEDLY BLAME THE LACK OF ADEQUATE MATERIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES AT THEIR DISPOSAL

AND THE NEED FOR VALID AND SUFFICIENT SUPPORT AND DIRECTION FROM THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. FINALLY, PUBLIC OPINION, WHICH IS NOTORIOUSLY CYNICAL AND CONTEMPTUOUS OF AUTHORITY, CAN HARDLY BE HEARTENED BY THE SPECTACLE OF POLICE AND GOVERNMENT HELPLESSNESS AS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE UNINTERRUPTED STRING OF FAILURES IN APPREHENDING ANY OF THE PERPETRATORS OF TERRORIST ACTS OVER THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS.

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COMMENT: OUR INTERLOCUTORS, AMONG BOTH THE CIVILIAN AND POLICE AUTHORITIES, ARE HARD PUT TO COME UP WITH CREDIBLE, SPECIFIC REMEDIES TO MEET THE GROWING TERRORIST THREAT IN GENOA. MOST CONSOLE THEMSELVES WITH THE THOUGHT THAT GENOA AND ITALY ARE NOT, AFTER ALL, ALONE AND THEY CITE TERRORISTIC ACTIVITIES ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE AND IN THE WORLD. FEW HAVE FOCUSED ON THE FACT, HOWEVER, THAT ITALY HAS HAD THE LEAST SUCCESS THUS FAR AT LEAST, IN COPING WITH TERRORISM. ALL OF COURSE, PLEAD FOR MORE AND BETTER TRAINED AND ARMED POLICEMEN, FOR STRICTER LAWS, FOR GREATER ANTI-TERRORIST COOPERATION AMONG NATIONS AND FINALLY FOR A STRONGER GOVERNMENT TO REESTABLISH THE CONFIDENCE OF THE CITIZEN AND DETER THE TERRORISTS. NOBODY SAYS, HOWEVER, HOW TO ACHIEVE THESE LONG-TERM PRAISEWORTHY OBJECTIVES OR WHAT TO DO IN THE MEANTIME. FINALLY, SOME TAKING A CUE FROM RECENT PRESS EDITORIALS, HAVE EXPRESSED RELIEF THAT THE COMMUNISTS HAVE JOINED THE "OTHER DEMOCRATIC FORCES" IN CONDEMNING RATHER THAN IN SUPPORTING THE TERRORISTS. A FEW HAVE SUGGESTED THAT GREATER COMMUNIST INVOLVEMENT IN THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL PROCESS MAY BE INEVITABLE AND NECESSARY IN ORDER TO SUCCESSFULLY FACE UP TO THE THREAT WHICH THE TERRORISTS POSE FOR ITALY'S "DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS." THE FACT THAT TERRORIST ACTIVITIES APPEAR TO HAVE INCREASED IN DIRECT PROPORTION TO THE GROWTH OF COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN LOCAL AND NATIONAL POWER OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS IS EITHER IGNORED OR EXPLAINED AS SIMPLY COINCIDENTAL BY MOST. IT CANNOT BE EXCLUDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE END OF A "LEFT OPPOSITION", EARLIER REPRESENTED BY THE COMMUNISTS, MAY WELL HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE DESPERATE ACTS OF THE YOUNG TERRORISTS OF BRIGATE ROSSE. DISCIULLO

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## Message Attributes

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